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REPORT

OF

SUPERINTENDENT AND MANAGERS

OF THE

STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

FOR THE YEAR 1866.



AUSTIN:

PRINTED BY JO. WALKER, AT STATE GAZETTE OFFICE.
1866.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

AUSTIN, Oct. 4, 1866. }

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith the annual report of the Trustees and Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum. Also a copy of the report of Dr. Graham, made at the commencement of your session, which I learn has been mislaid. I ask that the report of Dr. Graham, and the first annual report of Dr. Bell, be printed with the other reports from heads of departments, and the report of the Superintendent of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylum.

I would respectfully invite your attention to the suggestions contained in Dr. Graham's report concerning repairs, &c., at the Lunatic Asylum, and the construction of an out building of moderate cost for the care of insane freedmen. In the event this plan is not adopted, the counties should be required to take care of this class of lunatics.

I would also suggest the adoption of some measure that will force the counties and individuals indebted to the Asylum, to make immediate payment of their dues ; upon a refusal or neglect to do so, suit should be instituted by the County or District Attorney to enforce the collection.

J. W. THROCKMORTON.

MANAGERS' REPORT.

STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM, }
AUSTIN, TEX., Aug. 10, 1866. }

To his Excellency, the Governor of the State of Texas :

We, the Managers of the Texas State Lunatic Asylum, would respectfully transmit herewith the report of the Superintendent, Dr. B. Graham, which exhibits a full statement of the operations of the Institution since August 10, 1865; the number of its Lunatics, discharges, cures, &c., from which it will appear that notwithstanding the many unavoidable and embarrassing circumstances incident to the successful management of an Asylum, we are happy to find so large a percentage of cures, and to have the Institution in so prosperous a condition. The interests of this establishment, the home of so large a family of sufferers, appeal strongly to the feelings of all, and render it especially incumbent upon those in any way connected with the administration of its affairs, to be vigilant and faithful to their trusts. With this feeling, the Managers have maintained a close supervision of its affairs, and satisfied themselves that the Institution has been conducted upon principles of justice and economy, and that all has been done that could in any wise contribute to its beneficent ends. It is believed that the people of the State generally, desire information in reference to this Institution, respecting its management, general condition, &c. We therefore respectfully ask that your Excellency lay before the Legislature the report of the Superintendent Dr. B. Graham, with the request that they print, and distribute the same among the citizens.

GEO. HANCOCK,
E. B. TURNER,
J. M. LITTEN,
M. A. TAYLOR.

MANAGERS' REPORT.

LUNATIC ASYLUM, }
October 1st, A. D. 1866. }

To His Excellency, Jas. W. Throckmorton, Governor of the State of Texas:

The Board of Managers for the Texas State Lunatic Asylum, in compliance with the statute which requires from them an annual report of the "condition and wants" of this Institution, would respectfully report as follows:

This Institution is now in a most prosperous condition, fulfilling the beneficent purposes for which it was established. Forty-eight patients are now partaking of its benefits. Economy is observed; and cleanliness maintained in every department. The patients are generally orderly and quiet, which is, no doubt, owing largely to the mild and rational treatment they receive.

The arrangements in all the departments of its government are wise and calculated to result in the most favorable effects to the comfort and restoration of its inmates. The building, with the repairs hereafter indicated, will be healthy and pleasant. The grounds, most tastefully arranged with walks, shade trees, shrubbery, and flowers, are in a fine state of care and cultivation. The garden and orchard are well attended, and give bountiful yield. The lawn, well cleared of undergrowth and brush, and set with grass, affords fine space for the recreation of the patients.

The wants of the Institution consist especially in repairs to the roof of the building, repairs in the water closets, and in the renovating and enlarging the sewers.

An additional building for freedmen will be much needed.

A hall, thirty feet by forty, one story high, for a chapel, reading and lecture room, would be an addition of the first importance to the Institution.

After the report of the committee from the Legislature on the "Condition of the Asylum," which has, no doubt, come to the eye of your Excellency, and after the elaborate report of the Superintendent, we deem it needless to add more.

Respectfully,

JAMES P. NEAL,
FRAS. T. DUFFAU,
W. A. MORRIS.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM, }
October 1st, 1866. }

To His Excellency J. W. Throckmorton, Governor of the State of Texas :

In compliance with the law organizing the State Lunatic Asylum, the Superintendent has the honor to submit his first annual report. The number of patients in the Asylum, on the 21st of August, at which time I took charge of the institution, was 27 males and 26 females, the whole number under treatment at that time being fifty-three; of this number five males have been discharged, of whom four were cured, and one unimproved, a non-resident of the State, leaving under treatment at the present time, 22 males and 26 females, the whole number being forty-eight. For particulars during the past year, I would respectfully refer to the report of Dr. Graham, late superintendent, which contains a full account of the affairs and operations of the institution during the Provisional Government. The Asylum at present seems crowded to its limit of accommodation. Happily it is exempt from all epidemic diseases, and the institution is successful and prosperous in all its departments. During the interval which occurred from the 10th of August last, the date of the late Superintendent's report, up to the 20th of the same month, when I took possession, the expenses of the institution amounted to \$504 12, which amount, with the accompanying vouchers, were examined, and allowed by the recently appointed Board of Managers, and was paid out of a balance remaining in the hands of the late Superintendent, appropriated by the Provisional Governor, after which there was still a balance of \$551 15 of the same fund, which amount, upon settlement with the Treasurer, he deposited, taking his (Treasurer's) receipt therefor, and to which settlement the Doctor invites attention. Since my incumbency, the 20th of August, there has been no appropriation for the support of this institution, and it has, and is still, being sustained upon the credit of the State. The liabilities incurred during said interval, including officer's salaries and employees, now due, amount to the sum of \$2001 46, specie. No payments by counties or patients have been made since my appointment,

although I find that counties and pay patients owe the State the sum of \$8742 60 for board, care, clothing, &c.; and in this connection, I would call attention to the importance of adopting measures by which these claims can be promptly collected. Several counties each owe the State between the sums of five and six hundred dollars in specie. A variety of improvements and repairs are necessary to make the institution what it should be, and although I will not at present undertake to enumerate any, yet I would respectfully call attention to those suggested in the late Superintendent's report of August last; and in this connection, I may say that I have every confidence the present Legislature will inform themselves in relation to the wants of the institution, and provide as liberally for the same as they may deem proper. Probably in no State is the standard of public sentiment higher than in the State of Texas, and to maintain the public confidence, the increase and facilities for the care and treatment of the insane must keep pace with the demand for their accommodation, they being a class of human beings calling more loudly upon our charity and sympathies than any others. Commending the institution in all its varied wants and interests, to your continued oversight, and to the fostering care of the Legislature, and feeling thankful for the good that has been heretofore accomplished, with a firm trust upon that Providence which blesses every honest effort to do good, we enter upon the duties of the coming year.

W. P. BEALL, M. D.,
Superintendent Lunatic Asylum.

By B. GRAHAM, M. D.,
Ex Officio Superintendent Lunatic Asylum.

DR. GRAHAM'S REPORT.

To the Hon. E. M. Pease, George Hancock, E. B. Turner, Dr. J. M. Litten, and Dr. M. A. Taylor, Managers of the Texas State Lunatic Asylum.

GENTLEMEN: The following report of the Superintendent of the Texas State Lunatic Asylum is herewith respectfully submitted. In it I propose to give its current history since my re-appointment to the office of Superintendent on the 10th of August last, together with its progress and present condition. I desire you to transmit it to the Executive, requesting him to lay it before both branches of the Legislature, at an early day.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Patients in the Asylum Aug. 10, 1865	24	24	48
Admitted during the year - - -	23	17	40
Whole number under treatment - -	47	41	88
Discharged, recovered - - - - -	14	8	22
" improved - - - - -	2	4	6
" unimproved - - - - -	3	2	5
Died - - - - -	—	1	1
Remaining in the Asylum - - -	28	26	54

From this statement, it will be seen that, during my present incumbency, eighty-eight insane persons have been under treatment in the Asylum. Of this number, forty were admitted, thirty-four discharged, and one died, leaving fifty-four patients in the Asylum. Of those discharged, twenty-two had recovered, six improved, and five unimproved. The Institution is now crowded to its utmost capacity, as not more than fifty can be accommodated with any degree of comfort, and even then we are compelled to associate several in a room together. Having but three wards, we are totally unable to secure that system of classification which is so necessary both to comfort and successful treatment in an Insane Hospital. During the past year, trying difficulties have environed us. The change in our labor system, which has so effected the industrial interests of the South, has fallen with peculiar weight upon our Institution. I have found it very hard to obtain reliable labor, either black or white.

Nothing can be of more importance in an asylum for the insane than to secure and keep experienced and faithful employees, and this has been impossible during the past year. Blacks have been found, in many instances, unable to bear with moderation the change in their condition, and whites have often been unwilling to perform those menial services so necessary about an institution like our's. These, and other difficulties, meeting us at the very threshold, almost made us despair, yet we have passed through without serious accident, and the foregoing statement of cures will show that our Asylum, as an amelioration and curative agent, has not failed in its object. In view of the results accomplished, we look back with gratitude to the "Author of every good and perfect gift," feeling that our measure of success is satisfactory.

In a tabular view at the close of this report, will be found a statement of the results and particulars in regard to cases under treatment during the past year. We have endeavored, as far as practicable, to restrict the admission of patients to that class to which the law gives preference, viz., those of less than one year's duration of insanity. Notwithstanding our efforts, a majority of those admitted have been chronic cases; and most of those whom I found in the Asylum when I entered it, were of a similar character.

The experience of all medical Superintendents agree that few cases of insanity of more than one year's duration recover. This class of cases, however, while they cannot be generally cured, are entirely fit subjects for the treatment and care of an insane hospital. Their habits, if properly treated, may be much improved; and their removal from home is absolutely necessary, not only for their own welfare, but for the peace of their friends and of society. All cases of insanity generally require treatment away from their families, because of the propensities, habits and disquietude of the patient. It is also absolutely true that many persons laboring under mental alienation are much happier away from their friends than with them. Constant appeals are being made for asylum accommodations for idiots and lunatics of all grades, and this demand is greatly in excess of the provision made for it. Some dissatisfaction has, and will continue to arise, from this cause, on the part of those not accommodated. I have in all such cases endeavored to take the law for my guide; and when this has been complied with, by those seeking admission, I have not sent them away. I have not, however, felt at liberty to make the Asylum a home for harmless idiots, as our statute has not provided for such cases. The law has, in the first place,

wisely made provision for cases of insanity of less than one year's duration, as this stage is supposed curable. After having first accommodated this class, I have next admitted the most refractory and dangerous, rather than the inoffensive idiot and hopeless epileptic. In doing this, I feel that I am carrying out the law in its letter and spirit. It is proper to remark, in this connection, that this unnecessary accumulation of incurables depends much upon the unwise policy of friends in keeping the subjects as long as possible at home, and then sending them to the Institution for treatment. The opposite course should be practiced, and would relieve the public from the constantly increasing care and burthen of incurable cases of insanity. If such delay were practiced in other diseases less terrible than insanity in character and consequences, what a fearful result would the tables of mortality everywhere present! Could this mental alienation receive prompt and correct diagnosis and treatment in its incipient stages, is it not fair to presume the results would be far more auspicious? The very limited provision made for the care of the insane in this State, will, it is to be hoped, soon give way to a more just and comprehensive system—one more in accordance with the civilization of our age, and the better feelings of our nature. From the most reliable information I can obtain, there cannot be less than between five and six hundred lunatics and idiots in this State. This unfortunate class of persons call loudly, perhaps more loudly upon our charity and sympathy than any other. Kind attention bestowed upon these poor unfortunates, in a well regulated hospital, with all the proper appliances for treatment, will do more to cure them than all remedial agents without these advantages could do.

I have frequently been inquired of in reference to the influence which the late war has exerted upon mental disorders. In reply, I would briefly say that the most distinguished writers upon these subjects agree that mental disorders receive a marked impetus from the cause above alluded to. Thousands of persons have been driven from their homes in poverty and distress; family ties have been rudely sundered; domestic afflictions of every kind have been suffered: what causes, let me ask, more potent than these to drive the mind from a normal condition? Almost every mail bears applications for admission to our Asylum. In the wisdom and beneficence of the present Legislature, I have every confidence, and trust that measures will be taken to inaugurate a system more in accordance with the wants of the

unfortunate class of our fellow citizens who are knocking so loudly at our doors.

Some legislation may be deemed necessary in reference to insane negroes. I have recently been informed of several cases, one or two of whom are now in county jails. Inquiry has been made of me, as to whether they could be admitted as patients in this Institution. To such interrogatories, I have given an invariable negative, although there is no special enactment debarring them from the privilege. Should it be deemed advisable to make provision for such cases, a separate building should be prepared for their reception, in order that no compulsory association between the two races might exist. Should such persons be placed under my charge, I should, of course, give them the same attention and treatment as others receive.

The difference between the white and black races in regard to mental disease is very great, the number of the latter who are thus afflicted bearing a very small proportion to the former. Consequently, if it should be deemed advisable to make provision for insane negroes, not much would be required. It is not my present intention to enumerate particularly the deficiencies and wants of the institution; I must be permitted however, to call attention to some changes and improvements, which are almost indispensable to keeping it in working order. On taking charge last summer, and inspecting the general condition of the building, the roofing was found very defective; the leakage was so great during a heavy rain, that all the available labor in the house was called into requisition to keep the water bailed out, and to prevent the plastering from falling off, and other serious damage to the building. The bath rooms were also very imperfect, much of the zinc covering then having become worn out, and detached by use and age. The water closets were, and still are also in a very defective state; the sewers are entirely too small, and there are no pipes to convey the water necessary to clean the waste pipes; it is therefore necessary to carry all the water required for this purpose by hand, in buckets, thereby causing much additional labor. Unless the utmost precaution is constantly paid to the cleansing of these pipes the liquid contents will gradually ooze through the floor and ceiling, causing great injury and inconvenience. Some of the defects above alluded to have been temporarily remedied by repairs and constant attention. The roof has been much improved, but still leaks badly during a heavy rain. The bath room floors have been made perfect, either by covering them with new zinc, or repairing the old. A systematic and thorough removal of the defects, which exist in

the building has not been attempted; neither the material, labor nor means being at the command of the Superintendent to accomplish it. Much of the time of the Superintendent is unavoidably occupied in the general supervision of the entire establishment, and a multitude of minor matters claim his attention, and cannot be delegated to others. This has been particularly the case during the last year, and even had the means been at the control of the Superintendent, it would have been impossible for him to have accomplished a thorough repair of the building. During a crisis such as we have just passed through, it has been exceedingly difficult to procure reliable labor. I have found it necessary to make frequent changes among the employees, either from gross neglect of duty on their part, or failure to carry out the regulations adopted by the managers, without which all system would be impossible. Notwithstanding the anxiety and care growing out of the dissatisfaction thus caused, and other embarrassing circumstances, we have the gratification of knowing that the record of our success will compare favorably with that of any similar Institution.

Much is necessary to make the Asylum such as the wants of the State demand. It is probably impossible at the present time, either greatly to enlarge the present building, or erect expensive new ones. Some additional facilities for the amusement of the patients should at least be added. Such useful employments as are calculated to exercise, and develop at once, the mental and physical powers, are of the highest advantage to the insane. Our vegetable and flower gardens afford us the only occupation of this kind. Amusements and entertainments exert a most happy influence upon the insane, causing them for a time to forget their melancholly thoughts and harrassing emotions. Anything which can fix the attention of the mind, to the exclusion of morbid ideas, may be a means of its restoration to health. Religious service exerts a most happy influence upon the mind of many insane persons; and in this connection, I take occasion to acknowledge our indebtedness to Rev. Mr. Roud, of the Iowa Volunteers lately stationed at this point, for ministrations last winter; and also to Rev. T. McRhea, for several visits of a similar nature this summer. Musical entertainments perhaps contribute as much to the gratification and improvement of many cases of insanity as any other means which can be resorted to. This has been the principal means of enjoyment we have been able to afford them. They have been frequently assembled for the purpose of listening to vocal and instrumental music; and those of them who wished to do so, have been encouraged to take a part in the

exercises. Dancing has also been resorted to, and is a source of much delight to many of the patients, but our facilities for this amusement are very much limited, having no room suitable for the purpose. A hall of sufficient dimensions, in which all the inmates of the Asylum could be assembled, for the purpose of listening to religious services, or lectures upon various subjects, or to use as a reading room, or for music and dancing, would be of great advantage to the Institution. *It is indeed indispensable.* To this I take the liberty of calling your particular attention, and while I do not at the same time suggest any extensive improvements, I would respectfully urge upon the Executive and present Legislature, the importance of erecting a spacious hall for these purposes; such a building can be erected at a moderate expense. The objection to a separate building will disappear, when it is considered that it will be probably some years before the original plan of the structure will be carried out. Such a building as is suggested, being apart from the main building, would also afford secure hospital accommodations in case of the sudden visit of a formidable epidemic. It is also suggested that if a suitable building were provided for the Superintendent, either within the grounds, or in the immediate vicinity, the rooms now occupied by him might, by a little judicious alteration, be made to accommodate eight or ten additional patients. The defects above alluded to and the improvements suggested, are not for the purpose of urging any extended changes at this time, but that a fair understanding may be had as to the present wants of the Asylum. Our garden has, and still continues to supply us with an abundant amount of vegetables, for the use of the entire house, winter and summer, not having been under the necessity of purchasing a dollar's worth; we have sold an amount sufficient to furnish us with seed Irish potatoes, and such other seed as were needed, and we have still a small balance of the garden fund on hand.

Statement of the amount collected from and still due by counties and private parties.

Since the 10th day of August, 1865, there

has been collected by the State from counties

ties, and pay patients for the care and	Specie	U. S. Cur.
maintenance of their insane	\$3,949 21	\$1,762 10

There is still due the State from counties

and pay patients, near the sum of	\$8,000 00
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Of the indebtedness due the State from counties

ties and pay patients, Travis county owed,	327 41
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For which the Chief Justice of said county issued county warrants,

at their relative value, say 75 cents per \$1 00, making \$436 54, the same made payable to the Lunatic Asylum, and the said warrants are now in possession of the Superintendent.

There has been during the same time drawn from the State Treasury, for the support of the Asylum an appropriation made by the Provisional Governor Hamilton \$7,633 33 specie, and \$22 50 United State Currency, making together with the amounts above enumerated an aggregate of \$11,582 54 specie, and \$4,012 10 United States Currency, which has been expended during the last year for the support of the Asylum, except the sum of \$993 94 specie, now on hand with the Superintendent. The Institution is free of all debt incurred during my incumbency, everything being paid up to the 10th day of August, 1866, a period of twelve months. All papers and vouchers relating to this matter are on file in the Treasury Department, and to them I respectfully invite your attention. During the month of October, 1865, the Institution was, upon the order of Provisional Governor Hamilton, furnished with two thousand yards of osnaburghs, and one thousand yards white woolen jeans from the State Penitentiary — the Asylum at that time being almost destitute of mattresses, bed clothing &c. The following disposition, was made of this cloth: There has been made into mattresses, pillows, towels, pillowslips, sheets, ladies and gentlemen's garments, appropriately changed, about eight hundred yards osnaburghs; there has also been made into ladies' and gentlemen's garments, and appropriately changed, about two hundred yards of white woolen jeans: There has been exchanged for such goods as were needed for spring and summer use of patients, consisting of prints, denims, hickory stripe, domestic, &c., about five hundred yards of osnaburghs, and two hundred yards of jeans. The balance of the cloth is still on hand. In closing this brief report I desire to express my thanks to Dr. John Walker, who has zealously and efficiently performed the services devolving on him as Assistant Physician; he has the well wishes of all with whom he has been associated. To the members of the Board of Managers I would also return my thanks for the uniform kindness and consideration shown me, and for their well directed efforts, and great assistance in favor of the Institution, and its unfortunate inmates.

Respectfully submitted,

B. GRAHAM, M. D.

Superintendent Lunatic Asylum.

ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES AND DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Number of patients, August 10th, 1865	24	24	48
Number admitted during the year	23	17	40
Whole number under treatment	47	41	88
Discharged, cured	14	8	22
Discharged, improved	2	4	6
Discharged, unimproved	3	2	5
Died		1	1
Whole number discharged	19	15	34
Remaining in the asylum	28	26	54

CIVIL CONDITION OF THOSE ADMITTED.

	Total	Females	Males
Single	26	10	36
Married	17	15	32
Widowers and widows	4	16	20
Total	47	41	88

NATIVITY OF THOSE ADMITTED.

Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males
Texas	-	-	6	4	10
Tennessee	-	-	7	7	14
Alabama	-	-	6	1	7
North Carolina	-	-	1	3	4
Missouri	-	-	2	3	5
Kentucky	-	-	2	2	4
Georgia	-	-	2		2
Arkansas	-	-	1	1	2
Virginia	-	-	2	1	3
Maine	-	-	2		2
New York	-	-	2		2
Louisiana	-	-	2		2
New Jersey	-	-	1	1	1
Ohio	-	-	1		1
South Carolina	-	-	1		1
Connecticut	-	-		2	2

NATIVITY—Continued.

	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total
Mississippi - - -	1		1	Ireland - - -	2	2	4
West Indies - - -	1		1	Italy - - -	1		1
England - - -	1		1	Germany - - -	4	12	16
Norway - - -		1	1				
Denmark - - -		1	1	Total - - -	47	41	88

FORM OF INSANITY OF THOSE UNDER TREATMENT
DURING THE YEAR.

	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total
Dementia - - -	5	1	6	Simplicity - - -	1		1
Monomania - - -	3	3	6	Idiotic - - -	1		1
Mania chronic - - -	8	10	18	Moral insanity - - -	2	1	3
Mania acute - - -	9	11	20	Monomania of pride		1	1
Mania with epilepsy	3	2	5	Monomania of fear		2	2
Mania periodical - -		2	2	Suicidal - - -	4		4
Mania puerperal - -		2	2	Instinctive madness	1	1	2
Melancholia - - -	9	5	14				
Monomania of suspicion	1		1	Total - - -	47	41	88

FORMER RESIDENCE, AS STATED ON ADMISSION.

	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total
Travis county - - -	2	2	4	Red River county - -	1	1	2
Cooke county - - -	1		1	Collin county - - -	1	1	2
Washington county	1	3	4	Bexar county - - -	5	4	9
Calhoun county - -		1	1	Colorado county - -	1	3	4
Rusk county - - -	2		2	Harris county - - -	2	4	6
Milam county - - -		1	1	Panola county - - -	1		1
Denton county - -		1	1	Mason county - - -	1		1

FORMER RESIDENCE—Continued.

		Males	Females	Total			Males	Females	Total
Caldwell county -		3	1	4	Parker county -		2		2
Live Oak county -		1	1	2	Burleson county -		1	3	4
Bastrop county -		1	1	2	Houston county -		2		2
Bell county -		1		1	Polk county -			1	1
Victoria county -			1	1	Austin county -		1		1
Fannin county -		1	1	2	Lamar county -		1		1
Wilson county -		1	1	2	Medina county -			1	1
Cameron county -		1		1	Fort Bend county		1	1	2
Galveston county -			1	1	DeWitt county -		1		1
Davis county -		1		1	Burnett county -		2	1	3
Comal county -		1		1	Fayette county -			2	2
Tarrant county -		2		2	San Patricio county		1		1
Smith county -		1		1	Caddo parish, La. -		1		1
Anderson county -			2	2	Brooklyn, New York		1		1
McLennan county -			1	1					
Grayson county -		1	1	2	Total -		47	41	88